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Profession Development Lesson Plan: Wikis for Educators

Objectives: The educators will:

* Understand how to make and use a wiki in the classroom
* Explore current classroom wikis
* Create a wiki for use in their own classrooms

Materials

* SmartBoard with Computer (Internet Access Required)
* 1 laptop per attendee
* Agenda handout for each employee
* Professional Development Evaluation form
* Professional Development Certificate of Completion
* Food: Paper bowls, plastic silverware, water bottles, fruit, vegetables, cheese & crackers, cookies

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| 5 Min     10 Min  5 Min  10 Min |

Procedure:

1. Welcome all in attendance to wikis for educators.
2. Ask the educators to raise their hands if they know what Web 2.0 means.
3. Explain that Web 2.0 tools are internet-based resources that “According to Karchmer-Klein and Shinas, ‘Web 2.0 applications, such as wikis, are framed by a transactional relationship between author and audience. The reader is encouraged to contribute by becoming an active coauthor rather than a passive audience member.’ In more basic terms, Web 2.0 is a global collaborative use of the internet.”
4. Present “Wikis for Educators” home page:
   1. Tell the colleagues that Wikis are a form of Web 2.0 and present “Wikis for Educators” wiki on the Smartboard.
   2. Ask an attendee to read the quote at the top of the page aloud.
   3. Play welcome video to the group. While the video plays, point to the specific part of the page on the left-hand toolbar that the video is talking about: Why Wikis? How to Create an Use a Wiki, The CCSS & Wikis, Wikis in the Classroom, and Classroom Wiki Examples.
   4. Ask an attendee to read the paragraph labeled “But… What is a wiki?” aloud.
5. Show “Why Wikis” page, read the bullets aloud, and play the Dell Education video on the page.
6. Skip past “How to Create and Use Wikis in the Classroom” (we will come back to it later) and click The CCSS & Wikis. Refresh the group what CCSS means and its current importance in the field of education. Discuss the examples of Common Core State Standards provided on the page and how they relate to wikis.

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| 15 Min  5 Min    15 Min  5 Min   5 Min  10 Min      20 Min   10 Min  5 Min |

1. Go to “Wikis in the Classroom.” Keep the page open as a visual, but discuss (don’t read) the many ways a teacher can use a wiki in the classroom.
2. Have the people in the room turn to their neighbors for a think-pair-share. Ask the attendees to discuss if they know of anyone who uses a wiki in the classroom differently or if they have any ideas of other ways they may use wikis. Give them 2 minutes. Bring the group back together as a whole and ask if they came up with any other ideas.
3. **Break for Refreshments** – 15 minutes
4. Ask each attendee to grab a laptop computer from the front of the room as they come back in.
5. Tell the attendees to go to the Wikis for Educators website (which is written on the agenda). Have them click the link Wikis in the classroom, and give them 5 minutes to explore the wikis provided.
6. Bring the group back together and ask “What did you notice about the wikis?” Call on people to answer the question.
7. Guided Practice: Tell the teachers that it’s time to learn how to make a wiki. Ask them to create an account by following the directions under the “How to Create and Use a Wiki” link. Have them freeze when they get to that point. Then, show the group the different features with your own mouse on the SmartBoard while they follow along. Be sure to include all pieces of information necessary, like how to edit a wiki, how to add pages and members, and how to change the layout.
8. Now it’s their turn. Tell the teachers to think about a way that they can use a wiki in their classroom, no matter what the grade level is. Give the teachers twenty minutes to work on their wiki.
9. Provide 10 minutes for teachers to share what they have done so far and ask questions or make comments about the use of wikis in the classroom.
10. Have the attendees complete Professional Development Evaluation.
11. Have the teachers pick up their certificates of completion.

References:

Karschmer-Klein, R. & Shinas, W.H. (2012). Guiding principles for supporting new literacies in your classroom. *The Reading Teacher,* 65 (5), 285-293.